HARRY
AT ANY
TIME

Biography of Jerome E. Kroll

I was born 5-3-42 at St. Joseph Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at 9:00 p.m. premature. My mother was Hazel Buske who was 20 years old and my father was Harry Kroll who was 23 years old and worked at Sturdy Built Equipment. My mother had one child before I was born who was born dead.

I was Baptist on 7-04-42 and had John Kroll and Marie Konziora as godparents. As of 2002 Uncle John was 87 years old and is living in a nursing home and now has dementia and his arthritis gets pretty bad at times.

My parents lived on the second floor at a home at 2169 South 69 Th Street West Allis, Wisconsin from 1942 to 1951 or 9 years. The kitchen window faced west and had a poor view because of a large elm tree that grew in back of the house. The tree had several squirrel nests and sometimes I fed the squirrel nuts especially acorn nuts.

The windows in the south of the living room was blocked by another house so there really was no view. In the flat there was no view from the north. The view from the east was part of 69 Th Street. In the flat their were two bed rooms toward the south. My brother who was one year younger and myself slept in bunk beds. Sundays were special because my father brought the Milwaukee Journal Sunday paper home plus he would bring jelly doughnuts and rolls.

Physicians at this time made house calls and I remember laying on the kitchen table while being examine by the doctor. Apparently I got many sore throats and thus it was decided to give me a tonsillectomy. I remember being rolled down a hall to the operating room.

I found a cat and convince my mother to allow him to stay in the house but once while opening the refrigerator door I closed the door by mistake on to his tail and part of his tail was cut off.

During the first four years of development a child go through language

development that is at 13 months, the first words are said, at 17 months have a 50 word vocabulary at 18 months have two words combinations at 24 months, at 37 months have a four words combination and at 40 months can say indirect requests. Thus a had a normal development.

Most of my early memories must be from age 5 through 9 years old. On one Christmas there was laid out a large Lionel train set out in the living room. The train had very large cars. It was a beautiful sight. During the war years (1942-1945) Mother placed orange electric candle light in the window. My father had enlisted in the Navy and was trained at the Great Lake Navy base, but he got out because he couldn't make some training.

Father made sofa pads I remember watching Father using a square board which had pins in which you string yarn across the pins. Before we had a refrigerator we had a ice box. I remember my mother placing out the ice sign in the window. A truck with blocks of ice would show up and bring a big block of ice into the house attached to a big hook.

Before we got our first TV, I use to listen to the Green Horney and Amos and Andy. When our little round screen TV came into the house my brother and I watched "Mama" and "Howdy Dowdy. I know I slept with my teddy bear every night until the arm of the bear was torn. When my mother threw him away I went to look at him in the trash bin in the alley.

My father already had a car and parked in a garage in the alley. My parents placed a swing set and I had a small personal garden between the garage and the lot line. In between the houses were planted lily of the valley and firecracker flowers. My parents had a close friendship between the landlord and his wife who was a painter. I know calling them aunt and uncle.

Mother had a photo album which showed me as a baby and some pictures of my brother Ronald and myself in an Indian costume and some pictures from Wisconsin Dells.

My brother and myself did play with cap toy guns which made a loud noise if the hammer on the toy gun hit the cap just right.

Would walk with Mother to the streetcar station at W. Becher Street. This was the end of the line so the conductor would pull the seat back depending on which direction we were going. The shade in back of the conductor was in a triangle shape. The hard part was getting on the car since the step would fold down when the conductor stopped. I would try to go back to the rear conductor seat and you could see the tracks where the foot bell came from the floor.

There was a empty field at W. Becher where I would play and made forts. My Mother and us boys went to Grandma Buske once a week. At the corner of 69 St. was a red fire and police call box. I remember once getting on my three wheel bicycle and picking up the call box to see the hole where the key was used to call the fire department . The police cars were black and did not have radios in them so the police officer would have to call into the station using these boxes.

My brother and I played with three friends down the street whose name were Richard, Robert and Ronald. We used to go into the basement to drive their nice hot rod which pedal easily. They had a nice big yard with a big crab apple tree and in the fall we would throw the crab apple in a crab apple fight.

During a thunderstorm while running back home in the alley I got run over by a bicycle. Had to be taken to the hospital. Never did know who ran me over. Mother did wash in the basement and in warm weather the basement cellar doors would be opened so that the wash could be hung outside.

Mother read me stories and the best was "Bear rabbit". When I went to kinder garden school I remember crying and I remember using the large water paint brushes. In first and second grade I went to public school and remember being embarrassed by the teacher in regard to a spelling test. Mother said I broke the teachers gold fish bowl.

One night my parent were invited to the landlord flat for a card party. Later in the night after drinking bottle beer the landlord wife asked my mother which child did she love the best? Somehow this issue was pressed on and developed into a quarrel and this lead my parent decision to move. Thus a

few weeks later we were moving out the furniture and rolling up the carpet. It was exciting to move to a new location.

(1951 to 1952) 2513 West Townsend (Age 9 and 10)

We moved to 2513 West Townsend to a rear house in back of Uncle Ulrich"s mother and father home. This home was only a few blocks from A. O. Smith Corporation which made auto frames.

Uncle Ulrich worked at A.O. Smith and sometimes he would visit my mother during lunch time. My brother and I were enrolled in St. Leo about six blocks from our home but both my brother and I were placed one grade back because the sister superior (Notre Dame) said that public schools were one year behind public school. We got a dog a cocker spaniel which we walked everyday in back of the alley. At this time in 1951 and 1952 horses still pulled the garage wagons that picked up garbage from the large concrete boxes that were in back of each yard. I used to follow the wagon to pick up star shaped stamping.

My brother and I had a bedroom on the second floor and one Christmas I got a toy castle which had a draw bridge and lead soldiers. At this time I remember playing a lot with the toy soldiers. Always played all the soldiers and plastic cowboys and Indians in the big tin can. Apparently during play a lot of the toy soldiers lost their heads. Lead toys break easily.

While at St. Leo school made my first Holy Communion. It was a great event because we dressed up in white pants and white shirt and tie. I believe I also received gifts from other family members such as a prayer book and a rosary.

The home was near the Egyptian movie theater which was a very ornate movie theater. Had one friend who has hundreds of metal painted toy animals. At this time mother would begin baby siting in

her home to made extra money. Although I liked this rental home we didn't live in it very long because soon we moved to 1318 West 34th St.

(1952 -1954) 1318 West 34th St (age 11 and 12)

Aunt Ester and Uncle Russell's mother and father lived down stair. My brother and I were told we couldn't play in the back yard. There was a big apple tree in the yard. Went to St. Lawrence school along Greenfield Ave. I remember I enjoyed the winter when the mounts of snow would be piled up between the road and the sidewalk. I could walk on the high ridge that was made by the piles of snow.

While at St. Lawrence school was Confirmed on October 15, 1953 and Grandpa Robert Kroll was my sponsor and I was confirmed by the Most Rev. Albert G. Meyer. I liked going to St. Lawrence School because the Sisters of St. Francis taught there and their big Mother house was across the street. There was a very large bar picket fence around their property. Other students would call me teacher's pet because the sister that taught me always placed my drawings up on the board and I helped her after school collecting book materials or placing drawings up around the classroom.

One Easter I began collecting or buying glass ware from a glass shop along Greenfield Ave. I guess my mother must have been giving me the money.

Only a few houses down I had a boy friend who had a monopoly set and we use to play cards and play this monopoly game for hours. This friend also had a lot of comic books which I used to read. I believe I finally talked my mother in subscribing to Donald Duck comic book which I looked forward to receive. Aunt Eleanor gave

us boys a whole series of the Hardy Boy books. This was very enjoyable reading.

When ice skating during the winter at Greenfield park when I became cold there was a building with a wooden floor and benches that you used to change skates and warm up. Never achieved any speed going backwards. Like living here because could ride my bicycle to the viaduct and under the bridge their were a lot of pigeon and I used to collect feathers.

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Chapter 3- 2452 West Hadley St.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Style: Milwaukee Bungalow -Assess Value 2002 $28,500

Exterior Wall: Asbestos

Year Built: 1924

Total Sq. Feet: 1,522

First Floor: 982 Square Feet

Finished Attic: 540 Square Feet

Total Rooms: 8

Bedrooms: 5

Baths: 1

Basement: Full

Garage: Detached

Lot Size: 3,785 Square Feet

2452 West Hadley (1954-1956 Milwaukee, Wisconsin) Jerome E. Kroll (Jerry) lived there between ages 12 to 14 years old.

During 1954 after many years of living in rental flats. Mother and Father (Harry and Hazel Kroll) bought a home at 2452 West Hadley. This house was siting on a corner lot, with a large front porch with a swing set. The house had a small back yard with a white picket fence.

The backdoor was near the sidewalk with a milk slide door on the north side of the house. One of the first projects that Mother did was to build a patio with Lime stone blocks. Mother did it all by herself using a sand base. Since the patio was on the north side of the house it was not used very much.

Mother loved flower gardening and one of her favor books was from Wayside gardens because of all the beautiful pictures. The next project she did was to get her sister Elaine to go to the nursery to buy two upright evergreen trees for planting in front of the front porch and she planted two low growing evergreen shrubs. These evergreens were her pride. In the back yard she planted several types of roses these were nursed in the winter with piles of dirt to prevent the stems from freezing.

A short privet shrub lined the sidewalk from the porch to the sidewalk along the street. Father always had the job of cutting the shrubs to keep them short.

Beside roses Mother loved irises, the deep purple color she liked. The flower garden bordered the west side and the south side next to the garden thus this part of the flower garden obtained the sun during the afternoon.

Father got his dog a pup beagle from a litter from Uncle Bob (father's brother). Uncle Bob had a kennel toward the back of his yard with several beagles in it. Father wanted a dog so he could go rabbit hunting during the

fall season. Father built a neat little box for the dog next to the kitchen heat register. Father's car was always a ford. The superb car was a yellow ford but within a couple of years the salt from the winter months eat a hole right through the fender. Upstairs was a small finished flat but did not have a bathroom. The bathroom was in the basement. Father tried to get a bathroom upstair, but the city inspectors would not allow it.

The upstairs flat was rented to Laura a single woman who invited my brother Ron and myself to play cards and other games. The basement had a cellar for storing can goods. Mother often canned watermelon pickles, tomatoes and applesauce. The watermelon pickles were really very tasty.

There in the cellar Father always stored cases of beer and my brother Ronald and myself were always treated to orange and root beer soda which were stored in wooden box cases.

Dad pride was a workbench that he made and was position on the south east corner of the basement. The work bench had a work vice that was always useful to use to cut wood or straighten some piece of metal that was bent. Father toolbox was stored under the bench. When my father bought me a bicycle which was a very heavy and durable bike which I used every morning to deliver the Sentinel the Milwaukee morning paper. Often times I had to use Father's tools like the wrenches and screwdriver often to change a tire or to adjust the chain on my bicycle.

There was a small box radio on the wall against the bench. When my parents first bought the house coal was used in the large furnace which had large heating vents going to registers throughout the house. Later the furnace was converted to gas heat. I remember how always the side door of the house was always unlocked so that the meter gas man could come into the house to read the meter. You knew the meter man was coming in when he would shout "Meter man" as he entered the door.

Mother always did wash on Mondays with an old wringer wash machine. When I helped Mother with the wash she would always say keep your fingers out of the rubber roller wringers. Mother would wash the white

clothes first and the colored clothes later. Than in the winter months the wet wash was hung by wooden cloth pins on wash lines hung throughout the basement. Wash hung in the basement would usually take until Tuesday to dry out. Wash for four people usually filled the complete basement. On Wednesdays was Mother ironing day and starch had to be used on the white shirts before ironing. There were always stocks with holes that mother would mend. She taught me how to roll up stocks into pairs and place them into the cedar draws. To get the winkles out of white shirts and white tee shirts she used a steam iron with stilled water bottle with a pump that expanded with a hand pump. Ironing was a all day job.
Mother had a sewing machine and she made some of her own dresses and she could follow a pattern. The sewing machine was on a table driven by her foot on a swing metal pad that she pushed up and down.

The main living area was the kitchen which faced east with two windows which had a view of a two story brick apartment building. Dad would always get upset if people from that apartment building would park on our side of the street. The kitchen had a pantry facing north which had no heat and thus was cold in the winter.

The pantry was a nice place to go because the cookies and mother's baked goods were stored in cover decorated cans. Mother was a good cook. During the Christmas season she baked many Christmas cookies. My favor were the cut out cookies with rich white frosting and sprinkled with green, red and gold sugar crystals. Mother used to make the round power sugar cookies which melted in your mouth.

Mother was good at making bread. Bread making is a long process because you must allow the dough to raise. Mother would place all the covered dough pans near the heat register to allow the dough to raise before baking. Since the loaves were not precut we could cut are own thick pieces of bread and spread it with rich margarine. The bread was very good and my grandparents (Buske) would enjoy getting bread from mother.

My brother Ron and myself loved American spaghetti. My father always wanted mashed potatoes and gravy so there was a routine on what we eat.

Fridays were fish day and the only fish I liked was fried bullheads. We never ran short of fish because once a week we went to Grandma and Grandpa Kroll house on lake Tichigan. And Father always went bass fishing taking the dog along. Mother took my brother Ron and I rowing down the river to the muddy marshes to fish with cane poles for bull heads. Bull heads fish are fun to fish for because they are heavy fish.

Mother used the pressure cooker to cook large pieces of meat. Father liked chop suey or green peppers filled with rice. I remember helping Mother cutting up pieces of meat and placing the meat on wooden sticks.

Both my Grandma (Buske) and Mother loved to make peanut squares with lots of white frosting and crushed peanuts and the others favorite was banana cake.

Dad and Mother bedroom faced north and my brother Ronald and I slept in the bedroom facing west in bunk beds. Each bedroom had one closet for clothes. Mother and Dad closet was completely full of clothes. One interesting picture on my mother and father's bedroom was a glass enclosed picture with a cross enclosed but what made the picture interesting was all the dry flowers in the picture and the various colors in the back ground.

The dining area a room not used often had a large glass chandelier hanging from the ceiling. Each piece of crystal glass was hung individually with the metal hook into holes in the six level chandelier. To the right side of the room was a small table which held the dial up telephone. The most calls received were from my Grandma (Buske) who called once each day to Mother.

To the window side of the room (east side) were many violets being grown by Mother along shelves hung from the window sills. The violets blossoms were purple, blue, white, single and double blossoms. In the middle of the dining room was a large oak table. Mother upholstery the chairs with a gold and green material. The back cabinets with glass doors had mother's favorite fine china which had flowers imprinted on the edges of the dishes.

Grandmother and Grandfather (Buske) were the most frequent visitors on Thanksgiving and New Years. I remember one picture I took of Grandma (Buske) siting next to the Christmas tree. The tree was lit up with various color lights and grandma was holding a gift. Grandma (Buske) always worn the same type of dress which was dark blue with white dots.

The living room had a very large mirror on the east wall which was framed in a large gold decorative frame. Green and gold ceiling to floor curtains hung from either side of the mirror. There were book cases full of books on metal black and gold book cases on either side of the mirrors. My mother belonged to several book clubs and she read a lot of fictions books. It is too bad that college educational opportunities were not available in Milwaukee in the fifties because I believe with all the reading that Mother did that college courses would have fulfilled her need to learn. Under the middle of the east wall was a 24 " television with the couch placed on the south side of the room and a cocktail table in front of the couch. Once my brother and myself had got into a fight and we fell over the cocktail table and broke the table leg. Since we were afraid of the belt whipping my father would have given us we glue the leg together and hoped that the table would stay together before my parent got home. If my mother figure out that the cocktail table was broken she never said anything about it.

The front door entrance had a large standup radio with a record (78") player. Mother had one large Christmas album set which was always played around Christmas time. Mother's favorite was Gershwin records. The records were stored in the radio cabinet. The standup radio was a nice piece of furniture. Also in the room was a table made by my Father when he was a young man. Originally father was a cabinet maker. Thus he was good at accurately measuring wood and cutting pieces, thus it is why he was a good machinist. The closet was full of winter clothes and Mother's hats and Father's crown hats which were worn on Sundays to go to St. Leo's church which was only one long block away.

On Wednesday or Thursday once a week Mother went to see her Mother and Father (Grand parent-Buske). In the beginning she took the streetcar that ran along 27 St. St, than the buses and sometimes she walked.

When we walked one block south which was Center St. There was a shoemaker who did repair to our shoes. The Center street trolley ran all the way to the park at Lake Michigan.

On weekends we went to Lake Tichigan to swim and fish for bull heads at my grandparent house on my Father side (Kroll family). The route was on a two lane highway and often my Father would be impatient about the traffic. Thus it would not be unusual for my father to try to try to pass 5 or 6 cars at a time often a dangerous situation.

My grand parent's house on lake Tichigan was not directly on the lake but in a small inlet which was full of lily pads. There was a cottage in the back of my grand parent house that was rented out.

St. Leo's church and school were one long block away. I attended St. Leo's grammar school during the sixth and seventh grade. The sisters which taught at the school were housed on the west side of the church that had a recreation room with windows all around the room. The yard was very small but they hung their wash on cloth lines in the yard. At St. Leo's all students went to mass before school. The church was very large with a huge picture of Christ the King painted inside the dome.

I always enjoyed Tuesday which was a day of adoration in which the Holy Eucharist was placed in a monstrance. The awesome, sight was that the lights that lit up on the huge angels had in their hands were beaming golden rays like grace shining from heaven. The theatrical effects were great. Rosaries were always handed out during mass in boxes with many different color rosaries. It was always interesting to me to find a crystal bead rosary instead of a black bead rosary. The greatest privilege was getting to hand out the rosaries. Each class had assigned seating and sometimes we get in the wrong pew and than the whole class would have to move back to the right pew assignments. I had a little prayer book which had prayers which were said to release souls out of purgatory and into heaven. Thus I was always saying these prayers during mass thinking that my prayers were releasing souls out of purgatory into heaven.

When we returned to class to get a chocolate milk and eat usually a peanut butter and jam sandwich. My mother allowed me to subscribe to a religious comic book that came out twice a month. It was always a treat to get the religious comic books. The playground was very small and because we lived so close to school we were allowed to go home for lunch. In seventh grade we were allowed to go to one wood working classes at a public school. I remember making a lamp with a pull chain attached to a handle.

At age 13 years old I obtained an early morning newspaper route delivering the Milwaukee sentinel. It was a good route because it was along 24 St. Between Burleigh and Center St.. Bungalow houses ran along the whole route thus often two papers were delivered to a single house. I had to get up about 5:30 A.M., get on my black heavy bicycle with black fenders and go to a garage just west of St. Leo Church on Locust to roll up about 60 papers. A stove was in the middle of the garage which we filled up with newspapers to get the garage warm in winter. There were benches along the walls so we could do the inserts to the paper and roll them up and place them in our canvas delivery bags. I believe I had to pay about $40.00 for the route and this was deducted off my route collections. I think I had to do collections every Friday and thus I made some tips.

The people on this route were good payers. In order to increase readership there were campaign drives conducted in which if we got a new customer we would get a prize. I was petty good and remember getting an encyclopedia, blankets, lantern etc for making my quota. Christmas was the best because when I delivered Christmas calendars I got a lot of tips which made me feel like a rich person.

Once when I was ready to deliver my paper route I walked outside and there on the sidewalk was my father laying on the ground and he was drunk. After while I wanted a bigger route. This was a mistake because I had to go further to 20 St. and the area was poorer and the people did not pay as well nor did they tip well.
In sixth grade my Mother allowed me to join the boy scouts. The meetings were held in a nearby public school. I enjoyed all the camping equipment that had to be bought and immediately started to work for merit badges. I

remember going to one weekend camping trip where as soon as I got there their was a king of the hill game going on. Thus it seem like everyone was going up a big hill. Than it seem like everyone was coming back down the hill because someone got hurt and a lecture was given than that no one was to play that game again.

The scout master needed someone to play the bugle. I was given a silver bugle that was used in the Spanish American War. There was a boy named Murray who was suppose to teach me to play the bugle. I used to go to his house and he taught me two to three songs. One song played often was taps.

Using the money I made from the news route I was able to pay for a week at boy scout camp. At camp we live in a tent with a wooden floor. At camp I carved out a wood pecker and painted it the correct colors and attached it to a tree branch. Than I shellacked the entire bird and branch. Mother used it as a bookend. As I reviewed the merit badges that I could earn I decided that the church merit badge would be the easiest for me to earn.

Thus I began helping the church janitor clean and wax the church floors. The church janitor at St. Leo church also ran the bells at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday night. There were four ropes which went up four or five stories in the bell tower. The bells were so large that they could lift me off the ground. This was a great privilege to be able to ring the bells every Saturday night at 6:00 p.m.. At the same time I always like to lit a vigil light down in the basement church which had a grotto of Lourdes. I liked this grotto with the large statue of the Blessed Mother because it seemed everyone ignored the grotto, thus I could keep it clean and dust off the flowers.

Had a boy friend who lived on the southeast corner in an upstairs apartment named Dick. He had a nicer bicycle and we rode to Lake Michigan Lake Park. He was into muscle building and had weights in the large garage in back of the apartment complex. We wrestled around a lot. My brother Ronald seem to have his own set of friends.

On the bicycle route along Locust street there was one very steep hill to ride up. I always walked the hill because my bicycle was just to heavy to ride up

the hill. My bicycle did not have the three speeds that my friend Dick had on his newer bike.

Weekly the grass had to be cut and it was done by a hand lawnmower. Since we did not have a big yard the chore was not too difficult. Since there was large elm trees planted between the side walk and street the grass was very thin and did not grow fast.

My father Harry Kroll always went to work at Paper Machine Corporation. My mother always said that he was a good provider. He always went to work on time and was sick very few times. He assembled paper machines that made paper cups thus white rolls of heavy paper were folded and glued by the machine and than packed into card board boxes. Sometimes he would bring a roll a heavy white paper which I used do draw on. He later became the purchasing agent which had the benefits of a higher salary and more personal gifts. For some reason the extra pressure of purchasing agent made him nervous and in a few years mother and himself agreed that he needed to go back to his old job. I never known him to work at any other company except Paper Machine Corporation.

After work father always stopped at the local tavern. In Milwaukee their are about 1,000 local taverns which are a place of social gathering for many men. A glass of beer was about a nickel. My brother Ronald and I would eat about 5:00 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. and my father came home usually after 6:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. and expected my mother to have the food hot for him. My father expected mash potatoes and gravy everyday. Drinking by my father caused my mother a lot of problems. After my father eat he would go in the living room and fall asleep in his arm chair.

When relatives came over usually on my mother's family side they usually played cards. My mother's visitor was usually her sister and her mother (Grandma Buske).

My father was religious in that he had a certain prayer book and a picture of Jesus of the Shroud of Turin. I believe this picture kept his faith a live.

Following Picture:

Harry J. Kroll (wife Hazel)

Swimming on vacation at Fay Lake, Wi.

Around July , 1959

Birth: 1-26-1919

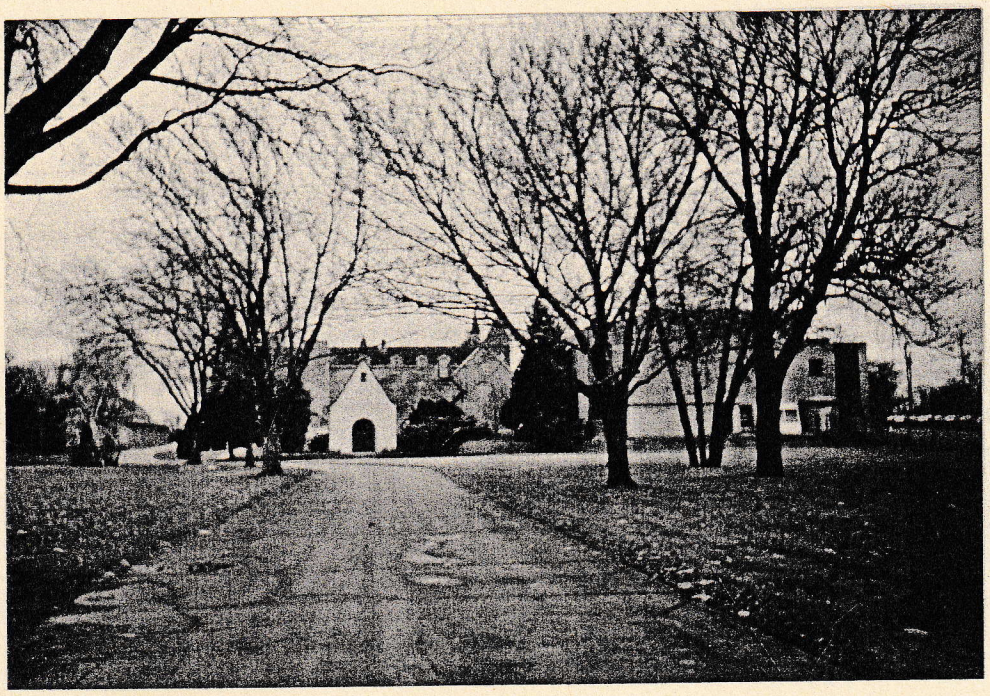
Died: 1979

Wedding Anniversary 10-26-1940

Burial: Wood National Cemetery
Wood, Wisconsin

Worked: Paper Machine Corp.

Chapter 4- Pallottine Fathers (Age 14 to 18)



5454 West Blue mound Rd. (1956-1960) ages 14-18

During seventh grade at St. leo School Father Toby the Vocational Director of the Pallottine fathers at 5454 West Blue Mound Road came to St. Leo and talked to our class about vocations to the Pallottine Fathers and Brothers. He left some brochures. I filled out the form and said I was interested in the brotherhood.

I was not interested in the priesthood because I did not know Latin and never was a server at Mass. At this time the prayer books had one side in Latin and the other side in English. My mother gave her okay for me to go the Pallottine Brother Candidate School because she said that after her first son had died at birth she promise God that her second son was dedicated to him. I believe my Father gave no objection. The old Monsignor at St. Leo had to write a letter of recommendation to the Pallottine superior. Thus I was allowed to skip eight grade and go directly into high school. While my brother was going to seventh and eighth grade I was already going to be a freshman and sophomore in high school. I started in September, 1956 at age fourteen years old. I looked very young because Elizabeth an elderly woman who did some house keeping at the Pallottine Mother house bought me immediately a large statue of St. Antony for my night stand next to my bed which was on the third floor in a large dormitory. I did not have any problem fitting in. Actually I liked my first year the best because I liked the other students whose names were Richard, Dave, Dennis and a couple others. There were only seven students and we reach had a large grey painted desk on the second floor which had two large classrooms on the north side of the house facing Wisconsin Ave. At my age of fourteen the Pallottine Mother House was awesomely big compare to my parent home.

At 6:00 a.m. we would be woken up by the smaller bell ringing on top of the chapel. The chapel was connected to Holy Cross church. Originally the church which was connected to the living area of the house was owed by the Capuchin Fathers who sold the property to the Pallottine Fathers in 1920. What was awesome to me is the spirituality of the Capuchin Fathers which had both altars in the chapel and church build with a huge cross with life-size Jesus statue hanging from the cross and a large statues of St. John and

Mary on either side of the cross.
After washing up and dressing and making our beds we seven students went down to the chapel where the priests and brothers were in their mediation. At 6:30 a.m. morning prayers began. Than all the priests would go to the rear of the chapel and start placing on their vestments for Mass.

To see the sight of so many priest vesting and so many different gold chalices was awe some. It was strict routine and there would be five masses going on at the same time. One mass in the chapel, three in the main church and one in the Schoenstatt shrine on the north side of the mother house. Since there was only seven students we were always serving for the priests. I always had to read the Latin response and I sure didn't know what I was saying. In serving so many priest there was a lot of bell ringing to notify the participants when the host was being raised. After the first round of masses there was enough priests to have a second round of masses.

The most personal item of a priest is his chalice. Each chalice has some distinct marking on the stem handle. There might be jewels, ivory or some distinct carve figures. It was up to the server to make sure each priest got the right chalice. One of the major streams of income was the donations received for masses thus every month religious leaflets were send out solicitation donation for high or low masses for the deceased. Thus many masses were for the dead and thus black vestments were worn.

Each mass lasted about 25 minutes. Since I was awed by so many masses I looked for priests who were more devote in saying the mass. Father Brell I picked as the most intense and devote. Father Joseph Kentenich who arrived from West Germany in 1952 was the founder of the Schoenstatt Movement and in 1956 said daily mass in the house chapel and was not particular devote. He said mass fast and I could often not hear him because he spoke so softly, but was always nice to me.

After mass we ate breakfast at 7:15 a.m.. I enjoyed breakfast we had cereal and milk and their was always breakfast rolls. The priest table usually had some luncheon meats because the priest would come in at different times to eat up until 10:30 a.m.. After breakfast we had to do dishes. My first two

Later when I gave him as a gift a large medal of the Virgin Mary he always worn the medal.

He also was a usher at St. Leo Church and did like doing the collection.

years I did a lot of dishes for about 40 to 50 persons each meal. The dish washers was stainless steel which had a large cover over the hot and cold jets with a wheel that went around and around.

If you were the washer you would take the ivory plastic dishes and cups and glasses placing them in wooden trays after you scraped off the food on the dishes into a garbage disposal. There was a hose with a brush that you sprayed the dishes and place them in the right cabinet. Dish washing took about one hour thus 3 hours a day were devoted to dishwashing. From 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. we were in the class room.

I had three years of English taught by Father Matel who also was the spiritual director and founder of the Pallottine Brother candidate school. He lived in a room off our dormitory on the third floor where he also had an office. He did the assigning of work detail each week, I was lucky that he assigned me to the ground up keep and the flower garden because that is what I did after school for about 2 hours a day for four years. About the third year he got sick and had to go into the hospital. I really never talk to him personally a lot.

Father Lee who was on the heavy side and chaplain at the Milwaukee County Institution taught me one year of Math, one year of Algebra, and one year of Geometry. He was a good teacher. Brother Frank taught us one year of physics and one year of civics. His room also was on the third floor on the south side of our dormitory. During the end of my third year he transfer to the farm in Madison and than left the Pallottines. He was also the barber and cut our hair once a month. He also drove the priests who could not drive around to various churches especially on Sunday.

Since the Pallottine own Puis XI high school (a six story addition was completed in the spring, 1957) and several priests taught there. I attended Puis XI high school for one year of Biology, one year of English, one year of Sociology, and one year of Geography, one year of typing, and one year of woodworking, one year of psychology. In June 1960 obtain my high school diploma which was signed by the principal Father Joseph Becker, S.A.C.. Out of four years only two of us graduated from high school.

What I enjoyed the most about going to Puis XI High School is that many times I had to walk by myself to and from school. Since the walk was about one hour each way I could avoid working in the afternoon.

I used to like walking pass a house on Blue mound that had a side yard full of flowers. This garden introduce me to how many flowers bloom for example the first flowers to bloom in spring were the crocuses and primroses. I sometimes took the long way home and walked by the Fatima gardens. There were many roses in this garden.

Some times I would stop at St. Antony church of Padua next to Puis XI high school. This was a very old church but had a very large statue of St. Antony. During the first year I went to wood working class at Puis XI in the after noon and made a table. Although this table took me a whole semester to make it got its resting place in my mother's attic. The first year I was allowed to bring my hamster from home in a large cage which my father had made. Also in the fall I brought a lot of plants from the outside and was allowed to place them in a large flat table which I made on the south window in the attic.

The attic was full of old books in German later Father Matel had these books all throw out since few people could read these old German print. During the first year a incidence happened in catechism class that forced Father Ray not to teach anymore. Father Ray forced Dave to put a baby sucker in his mouth, this incident cause a complaint and Father Ray did not teach us any more.

Often if we had a test I would use a flashlight under my blanket because lights went out at 10:00 p.m. On Sundays we when to two masses 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. High Mass which was in the main church. We were allowed to go home once a month on Sunday. Unlike the other parents who usually picked up their sons right after the 10:00 a..m. Mass I usually had to wait closer to 12:00 p.m. until my father and mother came to pick me up. I was usually taken back to the Pallottine House on 54 Th Blue Mound around 7:00 p.m. right after we watching Walt Disney and ate on T.V. tables. During the summer months we were given six weeks to stay at home and at

Christmas one week. Thus I enjoyed the constant changing between home and the Pallottine mother house. Living at the Pallottine mother house is a constant routine.

During the first year I observed how Dennis (a student) who was a couple year older was a good woodworker.
In the basement of the Mother house was a large wood working shop and he was always cutting wood and making projects as the Spiritual Director directed. He made a large room for developing Photos. I remember in the basement I found old glass plate photos at this time photos were in black and white. During the first year I made a large tool rack for garden tools which were stored in a room in the large garage which is on the east side of the house. I admired all the cars the priests had . There were at least seven to eight cars parked in the garage. The garage doors were always left open since the cars were always in use. There were four priest assigned to be chaplains at the Milwaukee County Institutions.

In the mother house the telephone next to the priest recreation room would always be ringing, calling for a priest to the Milwaukee County Institutions. To call a priest to a phone there was a bell system installed on the first and second floor. This bell would ring out a serial of bells which identified which priest had to receive the phone call. Brother Frank had the task to drive the tractor to plow the snow in winter and cut the grass in summer. I had the task of attaching the water sprinkler heads that ran along the several acres of grass which kept the grass green in summer. Since the sprinkler heads turned so fast I usually got wet in trying to detach the sprinkler heads. During the first year my mother met me at a plant shop so she could buy tulips for me to plant along the retaining wall in front of the Schoenstatt shrine. The spring of the first year the tulips were just beautiful. During the Christmas of the first year my father bought me my first watch. I was sure happy with this watch because it sure help me to be on time for the routine of the day.

One thing that I didn't like during the four years at the Pallottine Brother Candidate school is that we did not play any sports because our day was filled with work. During my third year we finally fixed up the tennis court

that we could play tennis. During the first year Brother Williams who did the laundry died and this was the first funeral that I attended. Brother Adolf who was in the Eighties was originally a missionary from the Cameroon in Africa and thus he was allowed to wear a beard. He rang the church bells and was their person who kept the altar decorated with flowers. There were always a lot of flowers from funeral services. There was a full page article about him in the Milwaukee Journal paper.

During the afternoon there were always priest praying their breviary in the hallways. What always impress me was the priest clerical garb which was pattern after the pope robes. The priest garb which is black has a cloak that gives their clerical clothes style. These clerical clothes have to be specially made by tailors which usually come in once a year to made the priest new clerical clothes.

The Pallottine printed "The Catholic Apostolate" once a month. The magazine was printed on very high quality paper and pictures were burned on plates. To burn a plate for printing it took several hours. The magazine "The Catholic Apostolate" was first printed in a large room on the north side of the building next to the house chapel. Than the basement under the Holy Cross Church was finished out with a cement basement and a gas furnace was installed. This allowed the printing and folding presses to be moved down to the basement under the church. The printing room had drawers for address plates which were used to print the address on each magazine.

When Father William Brell was assigned full time to organize the Schoenstatt Movement he begun translating Schoenstatt spirituality books such as "Every day Sanctity" and have these articles printed in the "The Catholic Apostolate". I admired Father Brell for his ability to translate from German to English. A language that was hard to speak because of the inverted word order.

Father William Brell had a brother and a sister in law who cooked for the Pallottines for several year. They lived in a house on the north east part of the Pallottine property. Later Father Brell brother died of cancer. Father William Brell was artistic and he draw some beautiful religious pictures and

a printed a book "Ever on my lips". These pictures were later used as the designed in the stain glass windows when the Holy Cross Church was remodeled in about my Junior year. When the alter was moved to the middle and the old chapel converted into the north wing of the church. Father Brell designed the tabernacle and the large crown on the tabernacle. Father Joseph Hass who first was the rector of the house was Father Brell closes friend. Later when the new rectory for Holy Cross Church was built with several, large bedroom both Father Haas (than pastor of the church) and Father Brell moved into the new rectory.

During my first year I had to pick a confessor for our weekly confession. I first went to Father Meyer an older priest who was the treasurer of the Province. After my first confession I didn't like him so I decided that Father Joseph Kentenich would be a kind confessor. He agreed and when I made my first confession to him he wrote down a pray to say which was "Hail Mary, for your purity take care my body and soul open to me yours , yours son heart, and all other gifts could you retain for you." I had to say this prayer kneeling down with my head touching the floor. Well the very first thing I did was change the prayer and added the words "open to me my father's heart". This was very significance because I really was saying if you want me to say this prayer I also want your attention and care. So through this prayer I was already showing my position or status.

From 1951 through 1965 Father Joseph Kentenich the founder of the Schoenstatt Movement was separated from his foundation and placed into exile from Germany to the Pallottine Mother house in Milwaukee.. When Father Kentenich became my confessor he was 71 year old I certainly did not realize his age and really never had a good conception of how much English he really knew.

But after my first year in the Pallottine house when I was looking for a devote and more intense religious experience I decided that Father Kentenich and Father Brell were the persons I scrutinize for my understanding of religious beliefs.

During my second year (1957) at Easter I had asked Father Joseph Haas for

a Easter lily for my mother he refused. Later when my Father came to pick me up he talked to Father Haas and said that my mother had a nervous breakdown and I had to be careful what I said to her. Father Hass than gave me a Easter lily to give to my Mother. During my mother life she had several nervous breakdowns and spend some time in the mental wards at several hospitals.

I am not sure how my mother would be diagnosed today. She sure was often depressed (perhaps manic depression). I am sure her life would have been improved if she would been allowed to work by my father, or if she could have taken college courses to help her escape from the same routine.

One of the problems with the Pallottine Brother Candidate school is that the few students kept changing. Usually most students didn't stay more than a year. Thus it was difficult to made any lasting friendships. Beside school my focus remain mainly on Father Joseph Kentenich and Father William Brell whose experience and activity gave me new religious experience and understanding. At fourteen, fifteen, etc it is hard to understand what God is and how he interrelates to the world and your personal life.

I had to look at especially father Brell and Father Kentenich to determine how their lives related to God. My experience with Father Joseph Kentenich allowed me to see him as an old man who needed love. He often spoke to Father Brell and Father Joseph Hass, Father Meyer in German. It was easy to observe Father Kentenich from our classroom on the second floor because his large office was next to our class room and it had a large picture window on the north side. While in the classroom the classroom door was mostly open so often during the day I would see Father Kentenich going back and forth from his office.

On Mondays the Pioneer Couples which included Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Schimmel, Mr. and Mrs Horning and some of their friends came regularly to listen to Father Kentenich give them a talk in his office which was next to our classroom.

I was in study hall from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. Thus I would see all these

couples going to Father Kentenich office. Thus I was curious what Father Kentenich was talking to them about. I soon notice Sister Winifred a Schoenstatt sister who always set up a tape recorder to tape the talk. Tape recorders were very large at this time and had to be properly position and set up. It was not long before I started visiting Father Kentenich in his office about five to 10 minutes every day after morning classes and before the Angelus bell rang. These visits led me to be come friends with Sister Winifred who was the Mother Superior of the Schoenstatt Sisters with their Mother house in Madison, Wisconsin.

And over time I met many other people who visited Father Kentenich. Father Kentenich office was interesting because of the large picture of the Mother Thrice Admirable which had a crown over her picture. Next to Father's Kentenich desk their was a large model of a Schoenstatt Shrine which usually had a lit vigil light. I was already impressed by the large number of letters that Father Kentenich received every day.

The interesting thing about these letters were not address in his name but Mr. Day with a P.O. Box. I was certainly interested in all the different stamps from various countries. Father Kentenich always had a basket on his desk which had many different pictures in it. Another technique I use to get acquainted with other people would be to often visit the Schoenstatt Shrine which is a separate building to the north of the mother house. In the shrine their often were the same women praying and I could get to talk to them when they left the shrine.

The biggest upset for Father Kentenich was the remodeling of the south end of the first floor. This is when Father Matel had us students move Father Kentenich things out of his old office and down to a new office which was much smaller on the first floor next to a door on the south east entrance to the mother house. Furthermore Father Kentenich bedroom and bathroom was next to the office. The bedroom was very small with a twin size bed and a window toward the south side.

His cloth were hang in a metal closet with metal. doors which opened out ward. By Father Kentenich moving to the first floor this allowed me to

receive Father Kentenich blessing every night before going to bed. Our routine after saying the rosary in the Schoenstatt Shrine at 9:30 p.m. was to go to the priest recreational room to receive Father Matel blessing. Than I would quickly go to Father Kentenich bedroom and knock on his door to receive his blessing. This procedure made Father Matel very angry. He would ask me why I needed two blessings, wasn't his blessing good enough.

During the third year or junior year Father Brell finally translated a small book about the history of Schoenstatt. Thus I was finally able to grasp the position of Father Kentenich in relationship to the Schoentstatt Movement. Also about this time Sister Winifred had published a Novena to Joseph Engling who was a student in Vallender, West Germany as a Pallottine seminaries. I always found this book a little uncomfortable because I could not relate to a German student hero who fought in the first World War. But it was the only Schoenstatt prayer book that I had. I did use it often enough that I had to tape the edges in red tape because of use. The other Schoenstatt prayer I said a lot was "I trust you might, you kindness, Mother dear, I do believe that you are always near. Schoenstatt's great Queen, O Mother mild, I blindly trust in you and in your child."

On the eighteen of every month was "Covenant of Love" day in the Schoenstatt shrine. The Schoenstatt Shrine would always be decorated in a special way. The altar banner "Nothing Without you, Nothing with us" would be hung on the front of the altar. Additional candles would be lite, there were always roses bought in and placed on each side of the Altar. Than the chalice would be taken out of the tabernacle and a decorated cover would be placed over the chalice. To me it was like bring Jesus out of the tabernacle for us to see. What also made it special is when Schoenstatt Sisters would come in and sing such songs and "Protect us with your mantle".

The singing of Schoenstatt songs's is what made Schoenstatt people different. Other than Latin lay people did not sing at Mass. I could identify with these Schoenstatt songs which were in English.

Once I began to understand Schoenstatt spirituality and piety this form was

much more attractive than what the Pallottine offered. Thus I wanted to made the "Covenant of Love". Sister Winifred made arrangements for me to meet with Sister Barbara who was a young teacher at St. Phillip Nero school. The picture of the MTA was in the church. Sister Christiania was the sister superior. Well I went two Sundays on my free days to get the proper understanding and instruction from Sister Barbara. I understood I needed a symbol. I took the bumble bee as my symbol. I bought a great big model of the bumble bee and assembled it together and placed it in a basket along with an outline of the shrine and collected flowers from the grounds to place them into the basket.

I wrote down my covenant of love statement and placed the basket on Father Kentenich's desk. Father Kentenich was very happy with the basket. From this day forward I felt I was part of Schoenstatt. I also ask my father to make me a big candle holder that I could place every eighteen of the month in the shrine. Father made a very heavy stainless steel holder. The candle holder must have weighed at least 20 lbs.

I than began collecting every month Father Brell translated articles from the "Catholic Apostolate" and the Schoenstatt insert was placed in the middle so that it could be pulled out. About 3:30 p.m. everyday I would visit with Father Brell for a few minutes and he would be seated at a table in the conference room in the new Holy Cross Church rectory translating. I admired him in for the patience he took in translating each word from German to English very exactly. In about the junior year I began to think I would want to be a Schoenstatt Brother instead of a Pallottine Brother. Of course there was one problem in that there were no Schoenstatt Brothers in the U.S.A. but only in West Germany. During my junior year I decided to start a Schoenstatt boy's group so I ask Father Haas if there were any boys in seventh grade that would be interested in starting a group. I started meeting with about 5 seventh grade boys each Saturday morning for about one hour. I would explain to them about Schoenstatt. I had them memorize some Schoenstatt prayers and sing some of the Schoenstatt songs.

Usually I had the boys made some crafts such as an Advent wreath. What I didn't know at this time is that Father Brell, Father Haas and some other

Pallottine priests were starting to build up tension within the house between those priests that wanted to have more Schoenstatt spirituality and those that didn't. Ultimately Father Brell, Father Haas and others separated from the Pallottines and began their own community of Schoenstatt Fathers.

During my junior year Venerable Vincent Pallotti the founder of the Palllottine Fathers was erected to "Blessed" and a year later was canonize a "Saint". Before Father Mark the province superior went to Rome. I ask him if he would bring me two relics one of St. Jerome and one of St. Emily to give to my parents. It sure was a surprise to me when he came back from Rome and gave me the two relics in jewel cases. I was very happy about this.

During the third year I was surprised that Jerry G. a student began going to Milwaukee vocational school to become a chef or cook. He than began working in the kitchen. This change meant he would not graduate from high school. Phillip a student got a job which I liked that made him the librarian. We would get about 10 or more religious books for our student library which was in against the back wall of our second classroom.
What interested me was the standard numbering system used and how you use a marking gun to imprint the numbers on the book and make the title and author index card for the file.

Schmidt a student who graduated with me began to use mosaic stone to complete a very large picture of St. Vincent Pallotti. The first student to go to the Pallottine Novitiate in Elkhart was Dave. During the fourth year I was in charge of obtaining film from the Milwaukee Public museum to show on Saturday nights. Some one had donated to the school a film projector . It was my job to show the film and rewind the film after the movie. We students would make a lot of popcorn.

One of the oddest experiences was a young man that was from the east coast Pallottine community to our school. He lasted a whole three days. He wanted to fight with everyone. Father Matel had him sent back home within days. We students were always fed very well beside the regular three meals there were coffee breaks. The 3:00 p.m. coffee break was especially good

because there were always cakes and cookies.

Feast days and names days were especially good because white table clothes would be used and special wine glasses and cocktail glasses would also be used. In the basement there was a room with about three freezers. One freezers had frozen breads especially rye bread and two freezers full of a wide variety of meats. There was another room fill with the one gallon cans of vegetable and fruits. In the dining room their was a shrine to the Infant of Prague and I made sure that the light was always turn on to lit him up and have a red vigil light lit. Meals always started with a prayer and spiritual reading. This allowed us servers to bring the food out in white dishes such as mash potatoes , gravy, meats, vegetables. There were a lot of food that I ate which I had never ate at home. The meal ended with a prayer.

Father Kentenich never ate supper at 6:00 p.m. But sometime when I slip into the kitchen at night to get a slice of cake or other sweet dessert I would find Father Kentenich getting food for one of his guest. When Sister Winifred was typing for Father Kentenich she used to go up the fire escape to the third floor to sleep in one of the cell rooms near the door. In order to do this Father Kentenich would have to go up to the third floor to open the fire escape door.

When Sister Winifred typed for Father Kentenich she did so with lay dress. When Father Kentenich moved to the first floor Sister Erica did the typing. Once I came into Father Kentenich first floor office and found Sister Erica kissing Father Kentenich on the cheek. I was attach to Father Kentenich and on several occasions ask he if he loved me the most. He always said yes he loved me the most. During confession Father Kentenich always held my hands which I liked. From readings I understand that Father Kentenich was exile from German because as Spiritual Director and Founder of the Schoenstatt Sisters he had an undue influence on the personal development of the individual sisters. Sister Erica also made Father Kentenich a set of clerical clothes.

The layout of the Pallottine mother house if entered by the north entrance was a sacristy for the shrine to the right, the kitchen and dining room, and a

priest recreation room to the east. Offices of the Province superior and rector to the north. The Holy cross church to the west and offices of Father Meyer Treasurer to the south. On the second floor classroom to the north. Priest rooms to the east and south. On the third floor dormitories to the east. Bathroom and showers to the north and the attic to the south.

In the basement food storage rooms to the north, boiler room, paint room to the west. South woodworking room, laundry room to the east. Printing room under the basement church. During the first year Martha was the cook who had a room on the third floor. Her husband use to come into the entrance and argue with her. She quit after the first year. Gilbert worked as maintenance and in the boiler room as a employee. His wife would help in the kitchen and sew for the priests.

During 1957 Ralph an elderly man entered the candidate school. He left within a few months of entering the novitiate and later came back to Milwaukee to take care of the shrine . He had a station wagon which he use to sometimes drive us around for some shopping errands.

The laundry room required a full time attendant and three or four students. Dave a student always worked in the laundry. Each priest and student had their label or initials sewed to each article of clothing and the clean clothes were placed in rows on shelves. My father bought me my first black suit during my second year. The most cherished gift from my parent was my camera. This had a large flash attachment in which a bulb was inserted to take a inside picture. The camera had a distance settings. This camera preserve some of my history because I could take pictures of Father Kentenich, Father Brell etc.

Father Somer who was a chaplain at the Milwaukee County institutions was also was a good builder. He built the house chapel that was moved from the north end of the building to the court yard. He did all the decorative art in the chapel. Father Boenski was the novice master at the novitiate first in Maryland and than moved it was moved to Elkhart, Wisconsin. Father Boenski translated the book about Jopseph Engling to English.

Queen of the Apostles Seminary in Madison, Wisconsin was the high school for students studying for the priesthood. Father Kentenich was 71 year old in 1956 and 74 in 1960 when I became eighteen year old.

When I graduated from high School in June of 1960 from Puis XI. I was surprised one afternoon when I was notified that I had to pack to go to the Novitiate in Elkhart. I immediately went to Father Brell who knew I wanted to be a Schoenstatt Brother to tell him I could not go to the novitiate. I immediately went to my locker to get my clothes and Father Brell found me a place to stay one block from the Mother house in a room provided by an old lady. I stay with her only a couple of weeks and than Father Brell found me a room with two sisters who lived one block west of the mother house.

I began cooking for Father Brell and Father Haas in the Holy Cross Rectory. This situation disturbed the whole Pallottine Community. At one meal in the rectory after Father Brell and Father Hass had a meeting with other priests it seem like the meeting was very heated. Father Hass said to Father Brell that he should have hit one of the priest for what he said. All of this began the split between the Pallottines and those priest who later became Schoenstatt priests.

Any way the other Pallottine priests did not want me to be on the property thus Sister Winifred came and ask me if I wanted to go the University of Wisconsin in Madison and live in the Sister's Mother House.

JEROME KROLL (1960) GRADUATION (PUIS XI)

Graduation Picture of Jerome E. Kroll (1960)
from Puis XI High School
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Extreme right: Dave Schmidt-He was good at making mosaic stone art work.

Father Matel the Spiritual Director had a deep feeling for Schoenstatt Spirituality. He allowed a lot of freedom and many spiritual activities was centered around the Schoenstatt Shrine. He was a good English teacher. In the winter he love to wear a long black cloak with a fur collar.

Jerry Gaughan- He had lived alone with his mother on W. Well St.. His mother was petty old when he went into the Pallottine Brother Candidate School. He was allowed to go to Milwaukee vocational School to learn cooking and he aided in the kitchen. He later join the army and was a Military Police Officer and married a woman from Japan.

Extreme left: Jerome E. Kroll (age 18)

Chapter 5-Schoenstatt's Sisters Mother house

Schoenstatt's Sisters Mother house (1960-1961)

I got my clothes and went with Sister Winifred to the Schoenstatt Sister Mother house in Madison at 3601 Highway BB (Cottage Grove Road). The first eleven Schoenstatt Sisters came to Madison in 1949. When I arrived the sisters made a room for me in the sub-basement which held the kitchen, dining room and boiler room. The room I slept in was the priest room. Father Brell once while sleeping in this room got a heart attack and was distressed that when calling out for help on one could hear him because the sisters slept on the second floor. The Mother house was at least one-half mile south on a gravel road off Cottage Grove Road. It looked a little odd in that all the property around the road and house was rented out to a farmer. Thus corn was growing every where around the house and property. As you entered the property there was a old farm house to the west of the gravel road where Sister Winifred parked her old green Buick. Beside Sister Winifred I was in contact with Sister Ellen who served me my food, Sister Innocents, who was a house keeper, Sister Terse who cooked, care for the garden and did the wash.

Other sisters who worked in the seminary Queen of the Apostle across the Cottage Grove road worked in the kitchen, laundry, and sacristy. Sister Winifred was always sorry that she allowed some sisters to work in the seminary. As lay sisters these sisters could earn more money if they worked out in the world. The Mother house had a large chapel to the right of the entrance. Even though the building was new water leaked into the chapel. Sister Winifred said she would never have build another flat roof building. When visitors such as Mr. Laufenberg and his wife would come . Sister Winifred would introduce me and I would tell them about the Schoenstatt history.

The Schoenstatt shrine was across the street on the Pallottine property. Beside the Seminary the Pallottines had a large farm which help to feed the students at the seminary. Father Soemer who had build the house

chapel in Milwaukee also build the Schoenstatt Shrine in Madison in 1952. From the Schoenstatt Shrine you could see the dome of the Wisconsin state capitol in the background and the lakes that surround the capitol.

The next day that I arrived at the Mother house Sister Winifred drove me to the University of Wisconsin and gave me some money to enroll at the university. I register for a class in English, German, Botany, Anthropology, ROTC, and Physical Education. The sisters gave me an old bicycle to ride . It was some trip from the University of Wisconsin to the Schoenstatt ' sisters mother house perhaps 10 to 15 miles. Cottage Grove Road was on a hill and the ride up from the lake was hard. Once around the lake going to the University the bike got stuck on the railroad tracks and I fell off the bike. I made sure that never happened again. For me everything was new. On a bicycle it probably took me one to one and half hours to get to the university and I remembered going around the State Capitol with all the trees surrounding the building. Most of my classes were around Bass hall and I did my home work in the library or museum. By the time I arrived back to the sister mother house it was 7:00 or 8:00 p.m.

Sister Winifred weekly gave me some lunch money. German was especially hard because of the word inversion order and the articles such as der, die , des in front of nouns. The instructor a woman called me into her office several times and at the end of the semester talked to Sister Winifred. I do not think it was a very nice conversation. Any way I made a failing grade in German. Remember I have a German accent from listening to so many Germans speak in their native tongue. Sister Innocents did try to help me in this class.

ROTC was new to me. I remember on the first day the instructor made all of us jump nude in the men swimming pool and determine if each of us could swim. I was good at rope climbing. Once a week we would have to climb all the way to the ceiling. English was hard too because

of all the English composition we would have to write. Anthropology was the only easy class and I remember sitting with about 200 students to listen to the lectures. Botany was a very long class because of the lab classes. I remember a girl helping me in lab.

Toward the end of the semester it was getting much colder and I would ride to Mr. Laufenberg house and he would take me back to the Sister's mother house. I didn't have much time but I was happy to convince the carillon organist to play some Schoenstatt songs on campus. I convince the sisters to come and listen to the songs.

During the first several months Sister Winifred took me on Sundays to visit Father Kentenich in Milwaukee. Sister Winifred allowed me to drive during these trips to Milwaukee I learned about Sister Winifred relatives in Germany. Sister Winifred had back problems and she had a wooden back rest in the car which help her to sit straight while driving to Milwaukee. Several times I had to visit Father Kentenich in his bedroom.

Once Father Meyer came to the door and I had to hide in the bath room. Father Kentenich on one visit took out a rope which had several knots and told me to use this on myself. I assume he was concern about me living in the same house with the sisters. I used a belt on myself several times and Sister Winifred room which was above my room. Asked me what I was doing since she her some noise. I never hit myself very hard because I didn't believe in the penance. I didn't want to hurt my body.

One time Sister Theresa asked me to help her in the boiler room. Because the lights went out the emergency power generator had to be started. I was shock when her head piece and dress got caught in the generator and rip it off of her.

At Christmas I made the sisters a Christmas present which was a plastic mold of the Schoenstatt shrine on which I placed Christmas lights.

One thing different between the meals the Schoenstatt Sisters served and the Pallottines is the meat was usually cut up into small pieces and I remember we often had berry like blue berries in milk with a little sugar on top. During the second semester I immediately enrolled in Madison Vocational and Adult School at 211 North Carroll Street Madison 3, Wisconsin. I did this without talking to Sister Winifred. During the Christmas break I invited the group of boys who I was meeting with at Holy Cross Church to a weekend camp at the sister's mother house. The boys slept in the dining and reception room on the ground floor next to the house chapel. One incidence happened that really upset me. One of the boys was running though the hall and ran through the door window. Apparently he did not see that the door was glass. The sisters took care of him immediately. He only had a small bump. I was sure happy that it was not seriously hurt.

The school was much easier to get too than the university and winter months is long and cold. I enrolled in Accounting which was 2 hours a day and Machine Calculation in the afternoons. I also went to a crafts class which I made leather crafts. I attended classes until June 15, 1961.

Sister Winifred when she found out that I had transferred from the university to the Tech school was very angry and she said I could not see Father Kentenich anymore. This was a dramatic experience and Sister Winifred found out how attached I was to Father Kentenich. I cried for a whole day. I had more of an attachment to Schoenstatt than I did my own parents. She was very sorry about the incident. And she said that I had a very special relationship with Father Kentenich. Remember that Father Kentenich answered my question who does he love the most: He answered I love you (Jerry) the most.

I went to the Madison Vocational School until the middle of June. In May, 1961 before school was over Sister Winifred ask me to move to the old farmhouse. Apparently some sisters though I should not be in the mother house because of scandal. I did keep a low profile and

sometimes I had to stay in my room when certain visitors came.

While living in the old farmhouse I made a big banner with Schoenstatt symbols and hung it from the Schoenstatt Mother house. The woman who made it with me was crying the next day when I met her. Because the sisters said that I should not spent a whole day with a woman who was not marry. She was a Lady of Schoenstatt from South America. She told me the story of her work in South America and how it was so hot that they would all fall a sleep by 2:00 p.m. until it got cooler.

During a later week in June, 1961 Sister Winifred took me to Ivanhoe, Minnesota to a family on a large farm. This family was interested in Schoenstatt and I played basketball in the barn with a group of high school boys who lived in the area.

When we got back to the Mother house my parents were their to pick me up and take me home. Apparently Sister Winifred had contacted them. I was happy than to see my parents and too go home. I had seen my parent only once at Christmas when they gave me a leather coat at Christmas. I was beginning to think of Schoenstatt as a woman's organization.

Already on July 24, 1961 I had a transcript sent from Madison Vocational school to the Milwaukee Institute of Technology so apparently my parents knew I was taking accounting and allowed me to begin the two year course at the Milwaukee Institute of Technology so that I could receive my A.A.S. degree in Accounting. I was really lucky to have picked accounting because that became my future career and it was a good profession to be in.

60-FATHER KENTENICH & JEROME KROLL

Milwaukee Institute of Technology (1961-1963)

I began college at the Milwaukee Institute of Technology in the fall of 1961. I was allowed to go into Accounting 2 because I already took accounting at Madison Vocational school. I also enroll in Business, Math, Business Law, Communication skill 1, Psychology of Human Relation.

In accounting there were no women at this time. Accounting was thought as a man's career. Also accounting sets were used in that everything was done in pen and ink under the double entry system. I took 16 credits and I believe the cost at this time was $5.00 a credit. At home (2452 West Hadley) I lived upstairs and had the bedroom and used the living room with a desk as my study room. In communication skills my instructor was Miss Katherine Stains (3948 N 51 St Blvd) who was very nice to me. This cause me to take two years of English with her including World Literature 1 and 2. My Brother was still in high school and had transferred from Messmer High School to Puis XI high school.

I spent the entire day at the college and did my home work in the library. I kept my books in a big leather salesman case. The second semester I took another 17 credits. My father bought me an old electric typewriter. He did not like when I typed because the noise from the typewriter vibrated on the floor. The typewriter was an old IBM which had a large black motor.

The third semester I took 18 semesters, the fourth semester I took 20 credits which included recreational games and Trampling and Tumbling in which I learned to make a flip with a safety belt on my waist. I made very good grades and graduated on time during June 1963 because seeing Father Kentenich once a week on Sundays and the stability of home allowed me only to study. During two years I never went out. During 1963 my first job was at Wasserman Brothers Builders at 5307

West Center St (53210). Part time after school posting expense vouchers to job cards. Than on weekends I worked at Pirkle Refrigerated Freight Lines 3567 E. Barnard Ave. Cudahy, Wisconsin, posting check vouchers to the hand written journal. I use green ink. After posting I had to make sure that the ledger was in balance.

Both Father Kentenich and my parents were happy with the results because I was also on the honor roll several times. I also was given by Father Kentenich the large cross that sat on his desk and his alarm clock. Also I had his winter long sleeve over shirt. I still maintained that I wanted to become a Schoenstatt Brother but I started to fade in this belief because there did not seem to be anyone who had the same belief. During this time Mr. Halala came to Milwaukee from South America. He was a Schoenstatt Brother and once was their Superior General over the Brothers. The Brothers were founded in the Dachau Concentration Camp when Father Kentenich was in the Dachau Concentration Camp between 3/42 to 5/45.

Therefore Father Kentenich was in the concentration camp between ages 57 and 60 years old. He was 78 years old when I graduated in 1963 and I was 21 years old. But I can say that Father Kentenich was my mentor and spiritual director for 8 years. Today there are millions of people all over the world saying he was a "Saint".

Mr. Halala bought a house on 1311 N. 12 th St. Near Marquette University this was a bad neighborhood and his house was broken into several times. Mr. Halala left the brotherhood and became an electrician and later married.

Several university students who were studying to be Schoenstatt Fathers bought Mr. Halala house and were going to Marquette University. Father Peter Locker who is now in India was one of the students taking courses at Marquette. Gunter Boll who later became a Superior of the Schoenstatt Fathers was also a student. Because Archbishop Cousins

would not ordained them they went to South America.
Mr. Herberger Brother General of the Schoenstatt Brothers came to Milwaukee from West Germany in about May, 1963 and talked to me. I stated that if I did not go to Germany I probably would not be a brother. He invited me to join the Brothers in Vallendar, West Germany.

Before I left for Germany in June, 1963 I prepared for a ceremony with Father Kentenich in which he would transfer his Charisma to me so that I could preform the same ceremony in Germany. I made all kinds of gifts. I painted a giant picture of Father Kentenich, I made a ceremony cloak, made a statue of the open door, made a cake and on a Saturday evening Father Kentenich read and performed all that I wrote and having his hands over my head transferred his blessing on me. Mr. Gunter Boll verified that the ceremony took place. There after I bought my boat ticket on the Hanseatic. Sailing from New York to England than on to northern Germany.

During the second year of college my grandma and grandpa Buske who lived at 2507 West Galena St. (Milwaukee) had their 50 th wedding anniversary. I really decorated their uper stair flat. I decorated the kitchen ceiling with a net stuff a mokey and flowers hanging from the kitchen ceiling. A special vase with gold flowers I made for the dinning room table. My mother's sister Elaine and her husband Jack Ulrich of 1411 N. river land Road 35 W (Mequon, Wis) was there and their children Mike, Susan, and Timmy. My Mother's brother and his wife were also there.

When I left for Germany my brother PFF Ronald J. Kroll had joined the Marines (2021141) 2 nd Br 7 th Marines E. co, 1st Marine Div (Rein) FMF Camp Pendelton, Californai and my grandfater whose wife died earlier when I was at the Pallottines Robert Kroll lived at 2618 E. Allerton St.

The boat trip from New York to Germany took about 4 days. The

FATHER KENTENICH & JEROME KROLL(1963)

passengers spent a lot of time eating. I served mass for a german priest everyday. The seas were rough and there was very little sunshine. I made friends with the young man that served us our meals and gave him a silver dollar and a tip at the end of the trip. He wanted to show me around Germany. When I reached Germany Brother H. Herberger and a brother candidate Mr. Czarkowski met me. The young man on the ship tried to get Mr. Herberger to allow to stay another day but he said no. On the way back to Vallendar we sleep over in a house before reaching Schoenstatt.

The names of the Schoenstatt Brothers in Schoenstatt were H. Herberger Brother General, Herr Jager, Herr Grill the noice master, Herr Groter the cook, Herr Dochat a officer worker in another city, Herr Behler, Herr Rotgerber the goldsmith master who had several students under him, Herr Germscheid, Herr Hannappel who wrote a book on Joseph Engling, Herr Blank. The brother candidates were Herr Bauer, Herr Brandsteller, Herr Hofmanor, Herr Rosenits, Herr Czarkowski, who could speak English and Herr Velton.

Chapter 7- Schoenstatt Brothers (1964)

Schoenstatt Brother's Motherhouse

1964

Vallendar, West Germany

Mr. Czarkowski to the right
Mr. Rosenits to the left

Jerome E. Kroll (age 22) in the middle

Schoenstatt Brothers- Vallendar, West Germany

The Schoenstatt Brothers had two houses in Schoenstatt (Vallendar) West Germany. Vallendar is near Koblenz on the Rhine river. Steep hills ran along each side of the river Rhine. I was surprised how many Schoenstatt houses were in the Vallendar. One can picture the Schoenstatt valley as a large campus with many schools and houses. Around the original Schoenstatt Shrine was the Pallottine Seminary on one hill. The Schoenstatt Retreat house was near the Shrine. The Schoenstatt Sisters modern school was nearer to Vallendar.

The Schoenstatt Brother's Gold Smith house was in the middle. The Schoenstatt priest house was near the Gold Smith house and had a large garden attached to it surrounded by a wall. There was also a large Schoenstatt Girls house near the shrine. The Ladies of Schoenstatt had a very large house with a separated Shrine on another large hill. The Adoration Church which was very modern with a fountain of water running at the entrance was on another hill with a very large and modern house for the Schoenstatt sisters. The Schoenstatt Sisters had their own Missionary house which had a swimming pool. The Schoenstatt Sisters had their own farm and gardens.

There was always a lot of walking up and down high hills going to visit the various buildings. Behind the Shrine was buried the heroes of Schoenstatt such as Max Brunner.

I lived in the dormitory rooms over the Gold Smith shop. What was different is that the windows opened up completely sideway. There was a gas heater that was attached to the wall and you lit with a match in winter.

Mr. Czarkowski and I lived in one room and the other candidates lived on the opposite end of the building. Mr. Czarkowski who was a university student spoke English very well and I needed him to translate.

We immediately began our 6 months of pre-novitiate. We had morning prayer in the house chapel next to the Gold Smith shop and we often went to the 7:00 a.m. mass in the original Schoenstatt Shrine. The shrine was always full of people. We ate breakfast in the main house about a block away and the house sat up on a hill.

We had classes in the morning. Religion, Schoenstatt Brother history, and Schoenstatt history. Classes were hard for me because I could not understand much of what was said. But Mr. Czarkowski wrote notes down. I later was given time in the afternoon to try to translate. What was interesting is that Father Kentenich founded the Schoenstatt Brothers in the concentration camp of Dachau.

One of the first acts I did was to request to perform the same ceremony that was perform between me and Father Kentenich. Mr. Czarkowski translated the text from English to German. The brother course decorated the chapel and I wore the celebration cloak and perform the same ceremony by laying hands on Mr. Brandsteller and the ceremony was taped recorded. I call the ceremony the transfer of Blessings and Charisma from Father Kentenich the founder to the Schoenstatt Brothers.

In the afternoon we had some work. At 6:00 p.m. we ate in a dining room in the main house. In the time after night prayer I usually painted or was making some crafts.

I had to register at the police station in Koblenz and I went to the dentist in Koblenz. The Rhine river was full of boats and for a few cents you could ride from Vallendar to Koblenz on the river. The German Corner is a monument in Koblenz that was not destroyed by bombs from World War Ii. During the war Koblenz was completely destroyed. One of the first trips we made was to Cambrai, France the place where Joseph Engling the Schoenstatt Student was killed in the first World War I.

Father Brell rom Milwaukee was also in Schoenstatt and went with us to Cambrai, France. I sewed together a couple banners to tie to back of the van. We had a priest guide who told us the story of Joseph Engling. Most memorial was the first World War I battle field of Verdun, in France.

In the cemeteries there were thousands upon thousands of crosses. White crosses for allies and black crosses for Germans. It was over whelming to know that a million men were killed in one area. We visited the cemetery for Americans. I sure began to believe the horrors of war. The Schoenstatt Brothers had a house in Cambrai, France and a monument to Joseph Engling which was off a highway. The farmers in the village seem to be very poor and the women looked like they did a lot of hard work.

In Cambrai the villagers took us in a wagon in the field where Joseph Engling died. I remember throwing out a cross where I believed he died. We arrived in Cambrai, France on Halloween and we had a little party with apple dunking. Our last ceremony was to light a bonfire in the metal globe and bowl which is at the Joseph Engling site.

I picked Mr. Herberger Brother Superior as spiritual director because he knew English. I knelt before him just as I did with Father Kentenich. We took a shower once a week in the basement of the Mother house on Saturdays evenings. For winter a large truckload of coal was dumped on the sidewalk. We all took buckets to bring the coal int the basement. Milk was bought in large metal containers and than the metal containers were returned. I learn to like the cheese which were served in small cuts with aluminum foil around the pieces.

I was very interested in Mr. Rotgerber goldsmith shop. Many gold crowns for MTA pictures were made in the gold smith shop. The gold smith shop is a primary source of income for the Schoenstattt Brothers. For Christmas I bought a crown to send my parents and had in script

words in the inside of the crown..

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